REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 4, 8, 12 and 15, leaves claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13, 14, and 16-20 unchanged and adds new claim 21. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-21.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Arakawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,408,610). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as recited in claims 1-20 are not taught or suggested by Arakawa whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims so as to more clearly recited that the present invention is directed to a data transfer method and apparatus for use in hierarchical computer system wherein first data including an item from an upper system is received and attribute information corresponding to the item held in the current system is updated and second data held in the current system is added to the first data. As per the present invention, the attribute information indicates a hierarchical relationship of the system by which the item is managed. Further, according to the present invention the first data and the second data are sent to a lower system.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Arakawa.

Arakawa discloses a system for managing data each of which is the same on each of management systems arranged in a logic ring. In ARAKAWA, data is

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transferred around twice on a ring type network. In a first round, in each of management systems, data of other systems is stored on a DB (database) of the system, and data of the system is added to an end of data to be sent to the next system. In a second round, in each of management system, data of a self system is deleted from data to be sent to the next system. At the end of above-mentioned process, there is no data left to be sent.

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for managing data each of which is defined on each management system arranged in a hierarchical structure. In the present invention, data (item) to be managed on each management system is stored on a system, deleted from the system, or sent to a next system based on attribute information indicating a hierarchical relationship of the system by which the item is managed. ARAKAWA does not teach or suggest such attribute information to control data transferring process as recited in the claims of the present application.

In the present invention, the item is managed based on the attribute information indicating a hierarchical relationship of the system. Thus, the process to be performed on the item in each of management system differs relative to each other. Arakawa does not teach or suggest attribute information corresponding to each of the items as per the present invention, and so, in ARAKAWA, the process to be performed on the item in each management system is the same relative to each other.

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus having a plurality of management systems arranged in hierarchical connection type. Thus, the flow of

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transferring the item is in a single direction (from a lower system to an upper system from an upper system to a lower system) and the flow of transferring the item is completed once. However, Arakawa discloses a system having a plurality of management systems arranged in a logic ring, and the transfer process is completed at least twice as described above. Thus, the arrangement of the system of the present invention and a transferring process of the item (data) therein is entirely different from that taught by Arakawa.

Therefore, as is quite clear from the above Arakawa fails to teach or suggest numerous features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Particularly, Arakawa fails to teach or suggest <u>updating attribute information corresponding to the item held in a current system and adding second data held in the current system to the first data, wherein the attribute information indicates a hierarchical relationship of the system by which the item is managed</u> as now more clearly recited in the claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of claims 1-20 as being anticipated by Arakawa.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claim 21. New claim 21 recites many of the same features shown above not to be taught or suggested by Arakawa. Therefore, the same arguments presented above against Arakawa with respect to claims 1-20 apply as well to new claim 21.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1-20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-21 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.38112X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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